

Canyon. The first band consisted of only three wagons pulled with ox teams and was led by William Wall. Members included Charles Carroll, operator of the sawmill in Big Cottonwood Canyon who had told Joseph of the valley several years before, and John Crook, one of the original surveyors. Also among them were Thomas Rasband, John Jordan, Henry Chatwin, Jesse Bond, William Giles, and George, John, and James Carlile. But to their surprise they found another group of settlers already there, plowing ground at what they called London Springs, so named because most of the group were English converts from London. They had moved there from Manti, and among them were Robert Broadhead and James and William Davis. They had already decided that the new settlement in Round Valley would be called London Springs.

Although he had been told that crops couldn't be grown in Round Valley, Brigham Young recalled the same thing had been said of the Salt Lake Valley. He decided that since a colony of Saints was already being settled there, he would issue a "call" for more settlers and establish it as a church mission. It was called the Provo Valley Mission and William Wall was designated as Presiding Elder until a Mission President could be appointed. Young had directed that a fort be built to protect the settlers from Indians and an adobe and rock structure 40' x 40' in size was started that summer. John Witt built the first cabin at what would later become the town of Charleston.

Some hay and wheat were planted that first year, but frosts as early as August killed most of it. As many as 18 families moved to the valley that summer, but an early winter drove most of them back to Utah Valley. Only the most hardy spent that first winter at Round Valley. The first child was born at Round Valley in November, 1859 to John Davidson, the settlement's blacksmith. The tiny girl was named Timpanogos Davidson for the towering 12,000 foot peak located west of the valley. But a cemetery had to be started also, for the infant daughter of James and Sariah Cook became the first death in the valley. John Carlile was the first adult buried there.

In the spring of 1860, most of those who left during the winter returned to Round Valley. William Wall, who was Presiding Elder, decided to build his home in an isolated little valley which later became Wallsburg, leaving the larger settlement at London Springs without a spiritual leader. No one seemed to be in charge and Brigham Young couldn't get an accurate report of what was happening at the new settlement, so he summoned Joseph Murdock to his office at Salt Lake

Joseph
Stacy
M.
Called
to
Heber

City. Young told Joseph of his problems learning of affairs at Round Valley and asked him to go there to learn what conditions were and report back to him. Young was well aware of Joseph's past record as a pioneer at Church Pastures, White's Fort, and American Fork as well as his service as a colonizer at Carson Valley just as he was aware of his love and devotion to the church, so he knew he could depend on him.

Joseph asked Nymphus to go with him, and immediately they left to visit the new Provo Valley Mission. There he was greeted warmly by old friends like Thomas Rasband, John Crook, and Charles Carroll, but he wasn't satisfied with what had been accomplished. The wagon road up Provo Canyon had washed out and it appeared to him that the townsite had been located in a poor place. He gave the settlers the best advice and counsel he could, suggesting that they move the tiny settlement away from the foothills at London Springs, where Indians could easily stage a surprise attack, and rebuild it near the center of the valley. He also suggested that they name the new site Heber City in honor of Heber C. Kimball. The settlers approved the wisdom of his counsel and he returned to Salt Lake City to report to Brigham Young.

After making his report, Brigham asked Joseph to move to Heber City and preside over the Provo Valley Mission, telling him that he was a man who had proven his ability as a leader and one well fitted for pioneering. Joseph was proud to be so honored, although it meant pulling up stakes and moving again. With five wives and thirteen children it would be hard to leave his home at White's Fort, so he told Young that it would take several months to get his affairs in order so that he could make the move. Young agreed that he could keep watch over the new mission from his Utah Valley home until he could move his family. Joseph Stacy Murdock was ordained as Bishop and Mission President of the Provo Valley Mission on November 15th, 1860 under the hand of Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, and Daniel Wells. It was an honor and a trust given to few men, and all of his family and friends were proud of him.

The remainder of that fall and winter were very busy times for Joseph and his family. He made frequent trips up Provo Canyon to guide the settlers and look for a place to build his new home. In his diary, William Forman recorded that he and Joseph Murdock took up "squatter's rights" at Round Valley, although

